



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa

Orlando

Jacksonville

Fort Myers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2007

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

CONTACT: STEVE COLE

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

FAX: (813) 274-6300

MELBOURNE MAN GETS MORE THAN 15 YEARS IN PRISON ON FEDERAL NARCOTICS AND FIREARMS CHARGES

Orlando, Florida - U.S. District Judge Gregory A. Presnell, today sentenced PAVIS LEVAR GRAY, age 26, of Melbourne, Florida, to 15 years and eight months' imprisonment on a multiple-count indictment charging him with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute five grams or more of cocaine base ("crack" cocaine); two counts of possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of cocaine base; and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. In addition to the prison sentence, GRAY must serve four years in a supervised release program and pay a \$400 special monetary assessment. GRAY previously had pled guilty to the charges on October 1, 2007.

According to the evidence introduced at sentencing, GRAY participated in a conspiracy to sell "crack" cocaine from an unknown date through June 27, 2006; and on two separate occasions, GRAY made video-taped sales of "crack" and several firearms to an undercover federal officer. Because of his prior criminal record, GRAY had been designated an Armed Career Criminal under federal sentencing guidelines with multiple prior convictions for violent crimes and serious drug offenses. As a convicted felon, GRAY is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition under federal law.

This case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms

and Explosives ("ATF"). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. In Brevard County, State Attorney Norm Wolfinger is calling the initiative "Operation Cease Fire." The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Craig S. Forrester.